Atty. Docket No.: YOR920030442US1
Response to Office Action of March 17, 2009
Amendment for June 12, 2009
Appl. No.: 10/725,735

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-30.   (Cancelled)

31.   (Currently Amended)   A method for selecting a logical branch in a storyline among a plurality of available storyline branches on a computing device, based on voters' votes, comprising: accumulating, the votes from the voters on a computing device during the presentation of the storyline; calculating a total for the accumulated votes; and selecting a winning tally that corresponds to one of the plurality of available storyline branches; selecting said corresponding storyline branch of the plurality of available storyline branches, during the presentation of the storyline, as a future storyline branch, based on the [total of the] accumulated votes.

32.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 31, further comprising transferring the future storyline branch to a content branching system.

33.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 32, further comprising displaying the transferred future storyline branch.

34.   (Original)   The method of claim 31, further comprising selectively excluding votes for a specific storyline branch.

35.   (Original)   The method of claim 34, wherein selectively excluding votes for a specific storyline branch comprises excluding the votes within a predetermined period of time before the specific storyline branch occurs.

36.   (Original)   The method of claim 31, further comprising determining if the votes are weighted.

37.   (Original)   The method of claim 36, wherein if the votes are weighted, selectively multiplying the votes by respective weight factors.

38.   (Original)   The method of claim 31, further comprising determining if additional votes remain to be accumulated; and wherein if additional votes remain to be accumulated, repeating an accumulation of the votes until all the votes have been incremented.

39.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 31, further comprising saving a record of the selected storyline branch for later replay.

40.   (Original)   The method of claim 36, wherein the votes are weighted based on a graduated ticket pricing.

41.   (Currently amended)   [A computer-executable program] Computer executable instructions that are tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium wherein the computer executable instructions perform the method steps of: [having instruction codes for]

        presenting a storyline having a plurality of possible future storyline branches to a plurality of voters;

accumulating votes from said voters for a continuing future storyline branch during the presentation of said storyline; [~~selecting a logical branch in a storyline among a plurality of available storyline branches, based on voters' votes, the computer program product comprising: a first set of instruction codes for accumulating the votes from the voters; a second set of instruction codes for~~]

calculating a total for the accumulated votes; and [~~a third set of instruction codes for~~]

selecting a winning tally that corresponds to a storyline branch[~~,~~] ; and

selecting said corresponding storyline branch as the future storyline branch during the presentation of said storyline based on [~~the total of~~] the accumulated votes.

42.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 41, [~~wherein the first set of instruction codes~~] further comprising the method step of transferring the selected storyline branch to a content branching system.

43.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 42, further comprising the step of [~~a fourth set of instruction codes for~~] displaying the transferred storyline branch.

44.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising [~~a fifth set of instruction codes for~~] selectively excluding votes for a specific storyline branch.

45.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising the step of excluding votes cast [~~wherein the fifth set of instruction codes excludes the votes~~] within a predetermined period of time before the specific storyline branch occurs.

46.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising the method step of [a sixth set of instruction codes for] determining if the votes are weighted.

47.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising the method step of [wherein if the votes are weighted, the first set of instruction codes] selectively [multiplies] multiplying the votes by respective weight factors.

48.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising [a seventh set of instruction codes for] determining if additional votes remain to be accumulated; and [wherein] if additional votes remain to be accumulated, [the seventh set of instruction codes repeats an] repeating the accumulation of the votes until all the votes have been incremented.

49.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising [an eight set of instruction codes for] saving a record of the storyline branch for later replay.

50.   (Currently amended)   The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising the method step of weighing [wherein the eight set of instruction codes weighs] the votes based on [a graduated] ticket pricing.

51-60 (Cancelled)

61.   (Original)   A system for the dynamic selection of a logical branch from a plurality of available branches in a storyline recorded on an electronic medium comprising:

a media center that presents to a voter recorded media having a plurality of available logical branches;

at least one computer coupled to said media center, said computer also being coupled to said at least one voter through a voter interface;

said at least one computer having programming code to accumulate and process votes from said at least one voter;

wherein during the presentation of said recorded media having a plurality of available logical branches said computer receives at least one vote through said voter interface means, accumulates said at least one vote and selects at least one logical branch, associated with the accumulated votes, from the plurality of available branches creating an interactive storyline in real time.

62.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 61, further comprising a media version matrix generated by recording the at least one logical branch selected during the presentation of said [~~prerecorded media~~] recorded media having a plurality of available logical branches.

63.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, wherein said at least one computer [~~can specify~~] specifies a particular previously selected [~~repetitive~~] storyline from said plurality of possible storylines [~~having a plurality of logical branches~~] to be presented to a voter through said media center by recalling said version matrix associated with said recorded logical branch.

64.   (Original)   The system of claim 61, wherein said at least one computer coupled to said media center includes at least one portable device.

65.   (Original)   The system of claim 64, wherein said voter interface is said at least one portable device.

66.   (Original)   The system of claim 61, wherein said voter interface is a device local to said media center.

67.   (Original)   The system of claim 65, wherein said voter interface is remote from said media center.